

NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

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MARKEY STATEMENT ON COURT DECISION ON LOCAL MEDIA OWNERSHIP RULES

Washington, D.C. --- The following statement can be attributed to U.S. Representative Edward J. Markey, (D-MA), Ranking Democrat, House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, regarding today's court decision affecting local media ownership rules:

"I am heartened that the court saw fit to send these proposed media ownership rules back to the FCC. The numerical limits proposed for local media concentration by FCC Chairman Powell were developed without adequate public input, were unjustly sweeping, and as the court noted, lacked 'reasoned analysis.' Simply put, the Powell Plan was the worst decision in the FCC's long history and the court was right to block it from going into effect.

"For instance, the Powell FCC plan would have allowed a single person to own 3 TV stations, 8 radio stations, the only newspaper in town, the only cable system in town, and all the Internet sites for such outlets, all in one community. I believe that this is excessive, unhealthy concentration of local media.

"Now that the Commission has the opportunity to start over, I urge the Commission to open up this process to the public in a way that it did not previously. The public needs to be involved from the start because localism, diversity, and competition remain important values to the American people. I also urge the Commission to act mindful of the court's interpretation of the 'public interest' standard. Finding that certain rules that are no longer useful is not the same as concluding that no rules are necessary at all. Rather than pursuing sweeping deregulation, therefore, the Commission would be wise to tailor its review in a way that reflects the realities of today's media marketplace."